

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING

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LICENSE INFORMATION

FIRST CALIFORNIA LICENSE:

Your first California license is issued for two birthdays--NOT **two** years--and expires the last day of the month following your birth date. From that date on, it will expire every two years, if renewed timely.

CALIFORNIA LICENSURE:

Once a California license number is issued, it will always remain the same number whether active, inactive or delinquent. If the license lapses and later the licensee wishes to renew, the same license number and renewal cycle will apply. EXAMPLE: If the license expired 8/31/96 and the licensee asked to renew in January 1998, the delinquent fee and proof of 30 contact hours of continuing education taken within the last two years would be required. The license would then expire 8/31/98 and another 30 hours of continuing education would be needed at that time. A licensee cannot practice in California with an expired license.

INACTIVE STATUS:

"Inactive status" means that the RN has paid the renewal fee, but has not completed the continuing education requirement. A licensee **cannot** practice in California with an inactive license. To change to an active status, the licensee must submit proof of 30 contact hours of continuing education taken within the past two years. NOTE: This does not extend the expiration date. The same expiration date will apply and another 30 hours of continuing education will be needed at the time of renewal.

LAPSED LICENSE:

A late renewal fee and proof of 30 contact hours of continuing education are required in order to renew a lapsed license if the active license is desired. **If** a license remains lapsed for more than 8 years the licensee will be required to retake and pass the licensing examination to be reinstated.

RENEWAL APPLICATIONS:

Applications are mailed out approximately three months prior to the expiration date of the license. If it is not received two months before the expiration date, please contact the Board. To insure receipt of renewal applications, **always** keep the Board informed of any address change. Registered nurses are responsible for renewing their licenses even if they do not receive a renewal notice.

NAME/ADDRESS CHANGES:

The law requires that RN's notify the Board within 30 days of any name or address changes. Address changes may be given to the Board over the telephone or in writing. **NAME CHANGES MUST** be submitted in writing, listing the old name, new name, birth date, social security number and RN license number.

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LICENSE RENEWAL

Mandatory continuing education for license renewal has been in effect in California since July 1, 1978. Proof of 30 contact hours of continuing education hours is required for every renewal for an active license **except** for first time renewal by RNs who obtained their initial license by passing the national licensing within the past two years.

Courses must have been taken within the two years prior to the renewal date on your license and must meet the Board's requirements. Course content must be relevant to the practice of nursing and must be:

- related to the scientific knowledge and/or technical skills required for the practice of nursing, **or**
- related to direct and/or indirect patient/client care.
- at a level above that required for licensure.

In addition to classroom/academic courses, RNs may take courses offered by approved providers (including independent/home study) in the areas of administration, management, education, research, and other functional areas of nursing relating to direct/indirect patient/client care. Examples of acceptable providers include those approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing (a *provider number* is listed on their advertising), other California health professions licensing boards, and some interdisciplinary professional associations.

Courses taken out-of-state may be approved by registered nurse licensing agencies of other states, state nurses' associations, as well as offerings by nationally recognized health associations or their regional subdivisions. CME Category 1 courses meet BRN requirements.

Registered nurses are strongly encouraged to remain informed about current issues in nursing including:

- Prevention, detection and treatment of communicable diseases such as hepatitis, AIDS, tuberculosis, etc.
- Detection and treatment of abuse such as child, elder, dependent adult, spouse/partner.

ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) can be used only once during a two year cycle for renewal purposes. Courses that deal with self-improvement, changes in attitude, financial gain, CPR, BLS(Basic Life Support) or are designed for lay people are **not** acceptable.

For information concerning courses offered by approved providers of continuing education, contact your local colleges, universities, hospitals, and nursing organizations.

ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

CHILD ABUSE:

Section 11166 of the Penal Code **REQUIRES** that any child care custodian, health practitioner, or employee of a child protective agency who has knowledge of or observes a child (in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment) whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse **must** report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone and to prepare and send a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information about the incident.

ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE:

Section 15630 of the Welfare and Institutions Code **REQUIRES** that care custodians, health practitioners, employees of adult protective services agencies, or local law enforcement agencies who (in their professional capacity or within the scope of their employment) observe evidence of or have been told by an elder or dependent adult that he or she is a victim of physical abuse **must** report this to county adult protective services or a local law enforcement agency immediately, or as soon as possible, by telephone with a written report submitted within two working days. For persons in long term care facilities, the observed physical abuse or client described abuse should be reported to the long-term care ombudsman coordinator or local law enforcement agency. State law **PERMITS** reporting of other types of abuse such as neglect, intimidation, fiduciary abuse, abandonment, isolation, or other treatment that results in physical harm, pain, or mental suffering when the reporter has knowledge of or reasonably suspects one or more of these types of abuse have occurred. Elders are defined as persons 65 years or older and dependent adults are defined as persons between the ages of 18 and 64 whose physical or mental limitations restrict their ability to care for themselves.

GENERAL ABUSE

Section 11160 of the Penal Code **REQUIRES** health practitioners who, in their professional capacity or within their scope employment, provide medical services for a physical condition to a patient whom they know or reasonably suspect has an injury that is the result of assaultive or abusive conduct to report this to a local law enforcement agency immediately or as soon as practically possible. A written report to the law enforcement agency is due within two working days. This statute is extremely broad. It includes **adults, children and other persons (including spouses)**.

"Health practitioner" includes physicians and surgeons, psychiatrists, psychologists, dentists, residents, interns, podiatrists, chiropractors, **licensed nurses**, dental hygienists, optometrists, or any person who is licensed under Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of the Business and Professions Code, as well as additional practitioners as defined in Section 11166 of the Penal Code or Section 15632 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

Failure to comply with these laws is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to six months in jail or by a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by both, as well as unprofessional conduct and can result in disciplinary action against the RN's license.